TL 5230

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/13/87
Distr: SC/CO/CC/GR

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

March 1987

"DISAPPEARANCES" IN EAST TIMOR SINCE AUGUST 1983: AN UPDATE

In 1985 Amnesty International published a report entitled East Timor: Violations of Human Rights. The report documented human rights abuses allegedly committed by the Indonesian military during the ten years following the Indonesian invasion of the territory in 1975. It included an appendix listing the names of some 550 people who were reported either to have been extrajudicially executed or to have "disappeared" during this period, including 71 reported to have been executed or "disappeared" since August 1983 when a major military offensive was undertaken by the Indonesian army. In the two years since the report's publication, Amnesty International has been able to establish what happened to some of the 71 people. It has also received reports of some 40 more "disappearances" which occurred between September 1983 and March 1985. Some of these are listed below; Amnesty International is trying to obtain additional details on the others.

Amnesty International is concerned that the failure of the Indonesian Government to investigate past "disappearances" has contributed to the continuation of this particularly serious form of human rights abuse and is urging the Government to undertake thorough and impartial inquiries into the circumstances of the "disappearance" of those listed in the 1985 report as well as all those listed below. Some may be alive. Amnesty International believes that a public accounting of the fate or current whereabouts of all those listed would serve to ease the anxiety of relatives and would be a demonstration of the Indonesian Government's commitment to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It would also demonstrate the Indonesian Government's compliance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 which calls on all governments "(a) in the event of reports of enforced or involuntary disappearances, to devote appropriate resources to searching for such persons and to undertake speedy and impartial investigations" and "(b) to ensure that law enforcement and security authorities or organizations are fully accountable, especially in law, in the discharge of their duties, such accountability to include legal responsibility for unjustifiable excesses which might lead to enforced or involuntary disappearances and to other violations of human rights."

Of the 71 people listed on pages 86-87 of Amnesty International's 1985 report as having "disappeared" or been executed since August 1983, 10 people have been found to be alive: Alvaro dos Santos, Mateus Pedro, Raul dos Santos, Alfredo Coutinho, Armando Pinto, Acacio Gutteres, Jorge Pinto, Afonso dos Santos, Rui Manuel and Americo Branco. All had been in military custody. Some have been tried and sentenced in civil courts, including

Jorge Pinto, Afonso dos Santos, Rui Manuel and Americo Branco. Some remain in custody but it is unclear whether they have been tried or are scheduled for trial, and some were released shortly after their arrest. At least eight others on the list may be alive as well, and Amnesty International is seeking more information to confirm reports of their whereabouts.

None of Amnesty International's information about those found to be alive has come in response to its repeated requests to the Indonesian Government for information on the "disappeared", and to the organization's knowledge, no investigation into their fate has ever been undertaken by the Indonesian authorities. But should information be made available to Amnesty International indicating that such inquiries have indeed taken place, the organization would make such information public.

New Cases of "Disappearances" in East Timor Reported to Amnesty International between August 1983 and March 1985

NAME: Benjamin da Costa Gutteres
AGE: 36
PROFESSION: teacher of primary education at Catholic school in Baucau
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: 18 August 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Baucau, then reportedly transferred first to Dili, then to Kupang in West Timor. Last seen in custody of military police in Kupang.

NAME: Antonio do Espirito Santo
AGE: 25
PROFESSION: worked at a kiosk in Baucau belonging to the postmaster, Joao Amaral.
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: 18 August 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Baucau, then reportedly transferred first to Dili, then to Kupang in West Timor. Last seen in custody of military police in Kupang.

NAME: Isidoro da Costa Ximenes
AGE: 28
ADDRESS: Cai Obi Lale, Caibada, Baucau
PROFESSION: farmer
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: 18 August 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Baucau, then reportedly transferred first to Dili, then to Kupang in West Timor. Last seen in custody of military police in Kupang.

NAME: Adolfo da Costa Freitas (Fraga)
AGE: 35
ADDRESS: Ualili, Baucau
PROFESSION: construction worker
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: 18 August 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Baucau, then reportedly transferred first to Dili, then to Kupang in West Timor. Last seen in custody of military police in Kupang.

NAME: Carlos Freitas Alves
AGE: 32
ADDRESS: Lai Soro Lai, Quelicai
PROFESSION: teacher at a Catholic school
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: August 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Lai Soro Lai, Quelicai

NAME: Humberto Manuel Da Costa Smith
ADDRESS: Lahane Barat, Dili
PROFESSION: driver for the governor's office
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: 7 October 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Dili
REPORTEDLY ARRESTED BY: Indonesian army intelligence unit
REMEDIES SOUGHT: A day after his arrest he was reported to have been seen at the office of the military police in Dili, but all attempts by his family to locate him through inquiries made in Dili at Comarca prison, at army headquarters, and at the Governor's office, were in vain.

NAME: Manuel Soares de Araujo
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: 15 November 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Dili
REPORTEDLY ARRESTED BY: SATGAS INTEL (military intelligence task force)

NAME: Joao Pinto
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: 15 November 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Dili
REPORTEDLY ARRESTED BY: SATGAS INTEL (military intelligence task force)

NAME: Paulo Mesquita
AGE: 34, married with two children
PROFESSION: supervisor for trucking agency in Caicoli, Dili
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: July 1983, held in Comarca Prison from which he was reportedly taken by member of Indonesian army in November 1983 and was not seen afterwards.
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Dili
REMEDIES SOUGHT: Family sought information from military authorities, most recently in November 1985, but received no response.

NAME: Julio Maia
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: July 1983, held in Comarca Prison from which he was reportedly taken by member of Indonesian army in November 1983 and was not seen afterwards.
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Dili

NAME: Marcelino Pinto
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: July 1983, held in Comarca Prison from which he was reportedly taken by member of Indonesian army in November 1983 and was not seen afterwards.
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Dili

NAME: Manuel Augusto Camacho,
AGE: 22-23 years old, married with children
PROFESSION: civil servant for the office of the Ministry of Agriculture
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: March 1984
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Dili
REMEDIES SOUGHT: His family reportedly made inquiries about his whereabouts both at the Comarca and at the Governor's office in Dili.

NAME: Joao de Carvalho Belo
AGE: 23
ADDRESS: Baucau
PROFESSION: a former student at a teacher training college
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: 13 October 1983
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Dili. He was taken to the house of Francisco Babo, a detention center used by the Indonesian Special Forces (then called Kopassandha) where he was tortured. He was then transferred to the Comarca from which he "disappeared" during the second week of March 1984.

NAMES: Zeferino Viana
Amaro Viana (brothers)
ADDRESS: Ili Lapa camp on the Lospalos-Lore road, Lautem
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: September 1984
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Ili Lapa camp
DETAINED BY: personnel from the district military command (KODIM), Lospalos
REMEDIES SOUGHT: family made inquiries as to their whereabouts at KODIM headquarters, were told on 3 October 1984 that they were no longer there.

NAME: Francisco Belo
ADDRESS: Fatolia, Venilale, Baucau
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: July 1984
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Venilale, later transferred to Baucau where he is alleged to have been tortured and to have had his right arm broken. He then "disappeared" in October after last having been seen in the custody of military authorities in Baucau.

NAME: Goncalo Araujo
AGE: 30
ADDRESS: Beobe, Viqueque
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: Reported to be January 1985
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: Viqueque, but reportedly transferred later to the Comarca Prison in Dili.
REMEDIES SOUGHT: Inquiries were made at the Comarca Prison but subsequent information indicated he was not there.

NAME: Manuel Caetano
ADDRESS: Sagadate, Baucau
PROFESSION: farmer, member of the Indonesian-trained civilian militia (ratih)
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: March 1985
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: resettlement camp at Sagadate, between Laga and Baguia in Baucau, initially detained in KODIM, Baucau.
DETAINED BY: soldiers of Indonesian Army Battalion 509

NAME: Augusto
ADDRESS: Sagadate, Baucau
PROFESSION: farmer, member of the Indonesian-trained civilian militia (ratih)
DATE OF REPORTED ARREST: March 1985
PLACE OF REPORTED ARREST: resettlement camp at Sagadate, between Laga and Baguia in Baucau, initially detained in KODIM, Baucau.
DETAINED BY: soldiers of Indonesian Army Battalion 509